have a post office at the end of December, 1987;

(b) whether such villages would have a post office in the remaining period of the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The information as on 31-3-1988 is furnished in the annexed statement. (*See* below)

(b) to (d) No, Sir, not all such villages will have a post office by the end of seventh Five Year Plan. There is a phased programme of opening of new post offices in rural areas. The number of new post offices proposed to be opened in the remaining two years of the Seventh Plan (1988-89 and 1989-90) is about 5,000.

Statement

Villages not having post offices as on 31-3-1988

S.No.	Circle	No. of villages not having post offices
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12701
2.	Assam	18903
3.	Bihar	57157
4.	Delhi	99
5.	Gujarat	10383
6.	Haryana	4590
7.	Himachal Pradesh	14472
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	5183
9.	Karnataka	18822
10.	Kerala	
11.	Madhya Pradesh	61847
12.	Maharashtra	29461
13.	North Eastern	10661
14.	Orissa	39550
15.	Punjab	9080
16.	Rajasthan	26137
17.	Tamil Nadu	6246
18.	Uttar Pradesh	96223
19.	West Bengal	31657
	TOTAL :	4,53,172

Maintenance of telecommunications equipments

1328. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate attention is not being paid to the proper installation and maintenance of telecommuications equipments, which is one of the major reasons for the low efficiency of the telecom net work in the country despite its having some of the latest devices;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for poor functioning of the telecommunication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir. Adequate attention is paid for proper installation and maintenance of telecommunication equipment in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Telecommunication services are generally satisfactory in the country.

However, for further improvement of this Telecom system, the following actions are taken under Mission Better Communication.

(i) Replacement of old life expired electromechanical system.

(ii) Replacement of worn-out and faulty underground cables.

(iii) Replacement of old telephone instruments.

(iv) Replacement of heavy overhead lines by underground cables.

(v) Provisions of drop wire for subscriber line.

(vi) Introduction of stable transmission media such as Micro-wave, Co-axial cables, Optical fibre cables for connecting different parts of the country.

(vii) Introduction of Electronic exchanges in different parts of the country.

Opening of new post offices in Orissa

1329. SHRI BAIKUNTHANATH SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lifted ban on the opening of new post offices;

(b) if so, the number of new post offices opened in different parts of the country since the ban is lifted;

(c) whether Government have opened any new post office in Orissa since then; and

(d) if so, the number thereof and how many of these post offices opened in the rural areas and particularly the tribal districts like Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundergarh etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) There was no ban on opening new post offices. There is a ban on creation of new posts However, posts required for implementation of Plan Scheme such as opening of new post offices, are sanctioned with the aprpoval of Ministry of Finance. Under this arrangement so far, 914 new post offices have been opened.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) 16 new post offices have been opened in Orissa out of which 15 have been opened in rural areas. The number of post offices opened in tribal areas is 12.

Power shortage

1330. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of power shortage in the country during the period April to December, 1987, Statewise; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government for becoming self-sufficient in power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(b) The measures being taken to improve the availability of power include expediting commissioning of new generation capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reducing transmission and distribution losses, implementation of demand management and energy conservation measures and arranging trasfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas.